

B-2365

Baltimore Civic Center, (Baltimore Arena, 1st Mariner Arena)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 04-25-2013

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena/1st Mariner Inventory Number: B-2365
Address: 201 W. Baltimore Street Historic district: yes ☒ no ☐
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21201-2519 County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
Property Owner: Arthur L. Walters Tax Account ID Number: 0650004
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000 Tax Map Number: 4
Project: Red Line Project Agency: Maryland Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: EAC/Archaeology, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Benjamin Roberts Date Prepared: 3/19/2012
Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Library--Maryland Room, ProQuest Historical Newspapers Database, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no ☐ Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

1st Mariner Arena at 201 W. Baltimore Street consists of a multi-purpose sports/entertainment arena and a modern garage in Baltimore City. The building and structure occupy nearly the entirety of a city block-sized parcel totaling 3.9 acres, forming a rectangular plan oriented on a north-south axis; the arena occupies the northern area with the garage to the south. The block is bounded by W. Baltimore Street to the north, Hopkins Place to the east, W. Lombard Street to the south, and S. Howard Street to the west.

Most of the arena is a tall one-story, rectangular plan building constructed in 1961. It is an altered Googie-style building. The walls are constructed of steel and concrete, with brick cladding at the lower section. Most of the metal panels on the walls above have regularly spaced stainless steel features with vertical and narrow projecting triangular shapes. The flat roof, consisting of twelve horizontal, pleated polygonal structures, each identical in shape and material, that form a saw tooth roof configuration, house the building's systems. The shape of each horizontal piece forms a triangular peak at each end, giving the appearance from the street-view of repeating pyramidal shapes along the roofline. The tops of each polygon form are clad with standing seam metal roofing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: lacks integrity

Jim Tarduno
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntze
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/11/12

Date

6/11/12

Date

The north facing façade is divided into eleven bays and contains a large amount of non-original materials to the exterior wall, entrances, and windows. Each bay has a protruding canopy of steel and green-tinted glass, and a granite-clad base. The top of each bay canopy has a glass panel angled downward and inward toward the building. The canopy at the east end is larger, and most of it extends beyond the upper wall; it has two sets of steel-frame and glass bay doors below. Identical doors are also located at the center of the façade. An inscription of "1961" is embedded into concrete on the sidewalk in front of the center entrance. Four billboard-sized, color-printed advertisement signs mounted on corrugated metal panels hang on the metal panel walls above the canopies. A large metal and neon sign with the words "1st Mariner Arena" on top of a yellow-gold compass logo hangs on the east bay of the façade. The northwest corner holds a stainless steel and glass, rectilinear vertical ornament near the roofline. Portions of the stainless steel projecting features have been removed to accommodate more recent additions.

The west elevation faces S. Howard Street and is divided into thirteen bays that extend along the lower level, with the upper concrete level cantilevering out over the sidewalk. The lower bays are alternately clad in brick and fixed multi-light stainless steel sash windows with mostly four solid steel doors below. The wider northernmost bay, however, has four sets of stainless steel and glass double doors. Sets of original four recessed round light fixtures underneath the overhang illuminate the sidewalk below. In addition, more modern round light fixtures are mounted on the wall. Back-lit steel framed advertisements hang on the southwest corner of the upper section, facing south. The top panel has the name "Baltimore Arena," the arena's previous name.

The east elevation facing Hopkins Place is similar to the west elevation. It consists of fourteen bays that extend along the lower level, with the upper level cantilevering out over the sidewalk; identical brick and metal cladding, doors, windows, and light fixtures are used; however, the third bay from the south consists of administrative offices with vinyl and glass double doors located underneath a round canvas awning. Adjacent within the same bay is a large garage door with roll-up metal doors, with fixed multi-light stainless steel sash windows above both entrances. Within the fourth bay from the north, a pair of stainless steel and glass double doors lead into the box office; this entrance is sheltered by an awning similar to the one for the offices. The three northernmost bays have large protruding canopies of steel and green-tinted glass, each with a granite-clad base, similar to the one at the east end of the façade. Most of the canopy at the north end extends beyond the upper wall. Several stainless steel and glass double doors are located below these canopies. Billboard-sized, color-printed advertisement signs mounted on corrugated metal panels span the upper level of this elevation. Black metal framing with spotlights runs along the underside of the banners to illuminate the signs. A large metal and neon sign advertising "1st Mariner Arena," similar in size and style to the sign located on the north elevation, hangs on the upper portion of the north bay of the elevation. Like at the façade, portions of the stainless steel projecting features have been removed to accommodate more recent additions.

Built in 1986, a brick-clad parking facility for the arena is attached to the southern portion of the building. The entire structure obscures most of the original south elevation of the arena. A narrow asphalt paved parking area is located to the east of the arena and parking structure, as well as small landscaped median areas with grass, bushes and trees. Low metal railings were installed adjacent to the east elevation. Vintage-inspired light standards have been installed near this elevation, creating a visual juxtaposition with the taller urban renewal era light standards lining the street. At the north end, a small brick and concrete plaza area houses a large concrete and steel structure with a raised cube-shaped pedestal consisting of steel beams painted white used for advertising. Concrete stairs with steel rails wind from the street-level, up one story into the center of the structure. Four blue painted steel beams hold the upper cube-shaped signage frame.

The Baltimore Light Rail's University Center/Baltimore Street station is located directly to the west of the arena, with the line running north-south along S. Howard Street. Charles Center is located directly to the east of the building, and the Inner Harbor attractions are to the southeast. Oriole Park at Camden Yards and the M&T Bank Stadium are situated to the southwest.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

Historic Context

The 1st Mariner Arena was constructed in 1961 and officially opened to the public in 1962 as the Baltimore Civic Center. The building was part of urban renewal efforts in downtown Baltimore that started in the 1950s. The site, however, has a history that goes back to the eighteenth century when the Henry Fite House (built in 1770), known as "Old Congress Hall," stood near the northeast corner of the current property. The Second Continental Congress met from 1776-77 at this former tavern. The building was destroyed in the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904. During the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, this area developed as a light industrial area with loft buildings and commercial storefronts on the current parcel.

By the 1950s, however, Baltimore's downtown and Inner Harbor waterfront areas were in decline. This post-World War II trend was also seen in many other American cities, as commerce and residents were moving out of the city centers and into surrounding suburban areas with their own housing, shopping centers, and theaters. Cities began to adopt urban renewal as a tool to revitalize the dying downtown areas. In Baltimore, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) was organized on January 5, 1955, by 86 business and civic leaders as an action committee to help bring businesses and people back into the city. Other notable aspects of Baltimore's urban renewal efforts were the 33 acre business complex called Charles Center developed from 1958 to 1965, and Inner Harbor redevelopment in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Baltimore Civic Center was the first completed project of the downtown revitalization. This large civic center was planned to house cultural events, conventions, exhibitions, and indoor sports. Discussions about creating a civic center began as early as the years after the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904, and plans were drawn up in 1909 and 1923, but did not come to fruition until the current civic center building was constructed. The GBC formed a civic center subcommittee in 1955 to determine public support for the idea of such a building. Initially the project was meant to be privately funded like the Charles Center to the east, but ultimately this became a municipal venture built through state funding. The Civic Center Commission was formed by 1956, headed by chairman Charles P. McCormick. Among other responsibilities, the commission was tasked with selecting a site for the civic center. The current location, selected on June 4, 1958, was the final choice out of nine proposed places that included Druid Hill Park, Mount Royal Station, Federal Hill, Bayview, and Fort Carroll.

The Baltimore Civic Center was designed by Arthur Gould Odell, Jr. (1913-1988), a well-regarded architect who attended Cornell University and completed his graduate studies at the L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He apprenticed with Harrison & Fouihoux, the architects of Rockefeller Center in New York City. Odell would successfully design his own buildings and make a name for himself, particularly in the southern states, where his works included the Burlington Industries Corporation headquarters in Greensboro, North Carolina, and North Carolina Blue Cross and Blue Shield Building in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Odell also designed the Charlotte Coliseum (dedicated 1955) in Charlotte, North Carolina. At the time, it was considered the largest unsupported steel dome in the world. The Hampton Coliseum (1968-70) in Hampton, Virginia, also has a round plan, with repeated pleated pattern around it, reminiscent of the Baltimore Civic Center roof. Both buildings still stand. Odell's firm won more than 75 design awards, and Odell was designated as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.) in 1955, and was the president of the national organization from 1964-65.

The builder hired was Baltimore Contractors, Inc. During construction in 1961, a vault placed in a cornerstone, included messages from United States President John F. Kennedy, Governor of Maryland J. Millard Tawes, and Baltimore City Mayor J. Harold Grady. The building was completed as a city-owned multi-purpose arena for a cost of \$14,000,000. According to The Baltimore Sun in 1962, the 245-foot-wide roof was one of the longest column-free spans on the east coast at the time. The building had 10,000 permanent theater seats, with space for an additional 3,000 seats on the arena floor. The large stage had an 80-foot proscenium more than 50 feet deep, and the arena had a built-in ice rink. The building was also constructed with an area for trade shows and exhibitions with 160,000 square feet of display space; there were also 16 dressing rooms and 44 meeting spaces.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Benjamin C. Moore was hired as the executive director for the civic center; his previous experience included managing similar venues in Syracuse, Spokane, Denver, and St. Louis.

From the 1950s to 1970s throughout the United States, venues similar in design and function to 1st Mariner Arena were constructed to facilitate a growing industry of sports and entertainment in large metropolitan areas. These buildings were built to function as multi-purpose facilities that could contain a crowd of people in excess of 20,000. Most had typical construction of concrete and steel, with either a flat roof, or a dome. Notable arenas of this era include: Astrodome in Houston, Texas, constructed 1965; Madison Square Garden, New York City, New York, constructed 1968; and the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, constructed 1972.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Baltimore Civic Center successfully hosted a variety of events ranging from sports to entertainment. Among notable entertainment events were performances by the Beatles in 1964 during their first American tour, the Grateful Dead on September 17, 1972 (which was recorded and released as a record album), and Led Zeppelin which filmed performances and released them in a concert film. A variety of sports events, including boxing matches, tennis matches and basketball games have been held in the arena. The Civic Center was the home-court for the Baltimore Bullets (NBA) basketball team from 1963 until 1973, and hosted the NBA All-Star game in 1969. The Baltimore Clippers (AHL/SHL) ice hockey team called the civic center home from 1962 to 1977. The Ice Capades and Ice Follies also made use of the built-in ice rink, and the venue is large enough to continue hosting the Ringling Brothers Circus.

The building also played a part during the African-American Civil Rights Movement. The noted civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. gave two speeches in the building, including one on December 20, 1963, during the Baltimore Freedom Rally before an audience of more than 8,000 people. On April 22, 1966, he spoke before Methodist clergy, giving a speech entitled "Race and the Church." King also visited Baltimore at other times, including a 1964 visit when he came as part of a multi-city campaign to encourage African-Americans to vote in the elections. After King's assassination on April 4, 1968, riots broke out in more than 110 cities across the United States, including in Baltimore, where civil unrest began on April 6. During that time, the civic center was used to house 800 overflow prisoners from the city jail.

The civic center underwent a renovation in the 1980s as part of a redevelopment project associated with the Inner Harbor's renaissance. The build façade was altered, and the exhibition hall at the southern end was demolished; a parking structure was built in place of the hall. The building reopened to the public as the Baltimore Arena in 1986. In 2003, the naming rights to the center were sold to 1st Mariner Bank, changing the name to "1st Mariner Arena." The vault in the cornerstone was opened in 2006, 45 years after the building was constructed.

Today, the arena continues to be used for its original purpose, although it is now owned and operated by Spectator Management Group (SMG), a Philadelphia-based private facility management company. The building has retained much of its original form and construction material, most notably the exposed concrete walls clad with metal panels and vertical stainless steel projecting features, brick walls and fenestration pattern on the lower walls, and pleated polygon shapes on the roof. The vertical stainless steel features and pleated features on the roof contribute to the building's Googie style. Before dramatic alterations were made to the front portion in the mid-1980s, the building had other character-defining features of this style, most notably two asymmetrically placed projecting rectangular forms at the façade. The one at street level on the east end has been obscured by modern canopies; the other located higher up at the west end (which had some decorative elements on its fascia) has been removed entirely. There were formerly three flagpoles with square planter bases located in front of the façade. The exhibition hall at the southern end of the building was also torn down in the 1980s.

Significance Evaluation

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

1st Mariner Arena at 201 W. Baltimore Street in Baltimore City was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C, using the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The Baltimore Civic Center was completed in 1962 as part of an urban renewal program for downtown Baltimore that started in the mid-1950s. It was built as a multi-purpose facility, and was host to entertainment and sports events, as well as exhibitions. Baltimore's ice hockey and basketball teams called it home in the 1960s and 1970s. The convention center has generally been a success and was the first completed urban renewal venture to bring business back into the downtown area, a movement later continued by the Charles Center and Inner Harbor attractions. However, this association with this historic context is not significant, and the building's appearance has changed since it was originally constructed. The building has played small roles during the modern American Civil Rights Movement, most notably when Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the civic center as part of the Baltimore Freedom Rally. Dr. King spoke and carried his messages at a large number of locations, some events particularly iconic and important. This particular speech and his other one given in front of a group of clergy are not especially significant; therefore, the civic center is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, and it is not eligible under Criterion A.

Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at least twice at the Baltimore Civic Center on behalf of the Civil Rights Movement. King was an important leader of the modern American Civil Rights Movement and is therefore a significant person within a national historic context. However, for a property to be eligible, it would need to be among the ones to best represent the person's historic contributions. The Baltimore Civic Center is simply one of countless properties throughout the United States where Dr. King spread the civil rights message. Therefore, the property does not have enough of an association with the life of a person significant in the past to be eligible under Criterion B.

The Baltimore Civic Center was constructed in 1961 in the Googie style. Its most distinctive remaining characteristic defining features are its overall rectangular shape and form, the polygon shaped forms on the roof, and exposed concrete construction clad with metal panels and vertical stainless steel projecting features; however, the building has been altered at its front section, obliterating some original Googie style character-defining features. In addition, the exhibition hall at the southern (rear) end was torn down. The building was considered to have one of the longest column free spans on the east coast at the time; this technology, however, was no longer new, illustrated by the Charlotte Coliseum which had a span as wide as its dome by 1955. Therefore, this property does not contain enough distinctive characteristics to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction. The building is the work of a recognized master, Arthur G. Odell. He was a Fellow of the A.I.A. and also a national president of the organization. In addition to the evaluated building, he built other arena buildings, namely the dome shaped Hampton Coliseum and Charlotte Arena. The evaluated building, however, cannot be considered one of his distinctive works, and has been altered. The civic center also does not possess high artistic value. Therefore, the civic center is not eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment. The 1st Mariner Arena is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Works Consulted

"Arena, Convention Center Idea Could Cost Nearly \$1B." Baltimore Business Journal. 16 December 2010.

"Arthur G. Odell Jr., 74; Acclaimed for Designs." The New York Times. 28 April 1988.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

"Arthur Gould Odell (1913-1988)." <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1033076.aspx>

"Baltimore 68: Riots and Rebirth: Baltimore '68 Events Timeline." <http://archives.ubalt.edu/bsr/timeline/timeline.html>.

"Baltimore Puts off Decision on New Downtown Arena." Arena Digest. 7 August 2008.

Dannes, Jeff. "Collateral Damage: Unintended Consequences of Urban Renewal in Baltimore, MD." http://www.wlu.edu/documents/shepherd/academics/cap_03_dannes.pdf.

"The Greater Baltimore Committee: A Brief History." <http://www.gbc.org/upload/GBC%20History-8-2008-web.pdf>.

"Officials Talk With Designer of Modernistic Civic Center." The Baltimore Sun. 11 April 1956, p. 11.

"Renovating the Civic Center." The Baltimore Sun. 4 July 1985, p. 10A.

Report No. 5781 to Greater Baltimore Committee, Inc. on Proposed Civic Center for Baltimore, November 1, 1955.

Schmidt, John C. "After Fifty Years – A Civic Center." The Baltimore Sun. 21 October 1962, p. A1.

Whiteford, Charles G. "Greater Baltimore Group O.K.'s Plans for Progress." The Baltimore Sun. 23 November 1955, p. 42.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

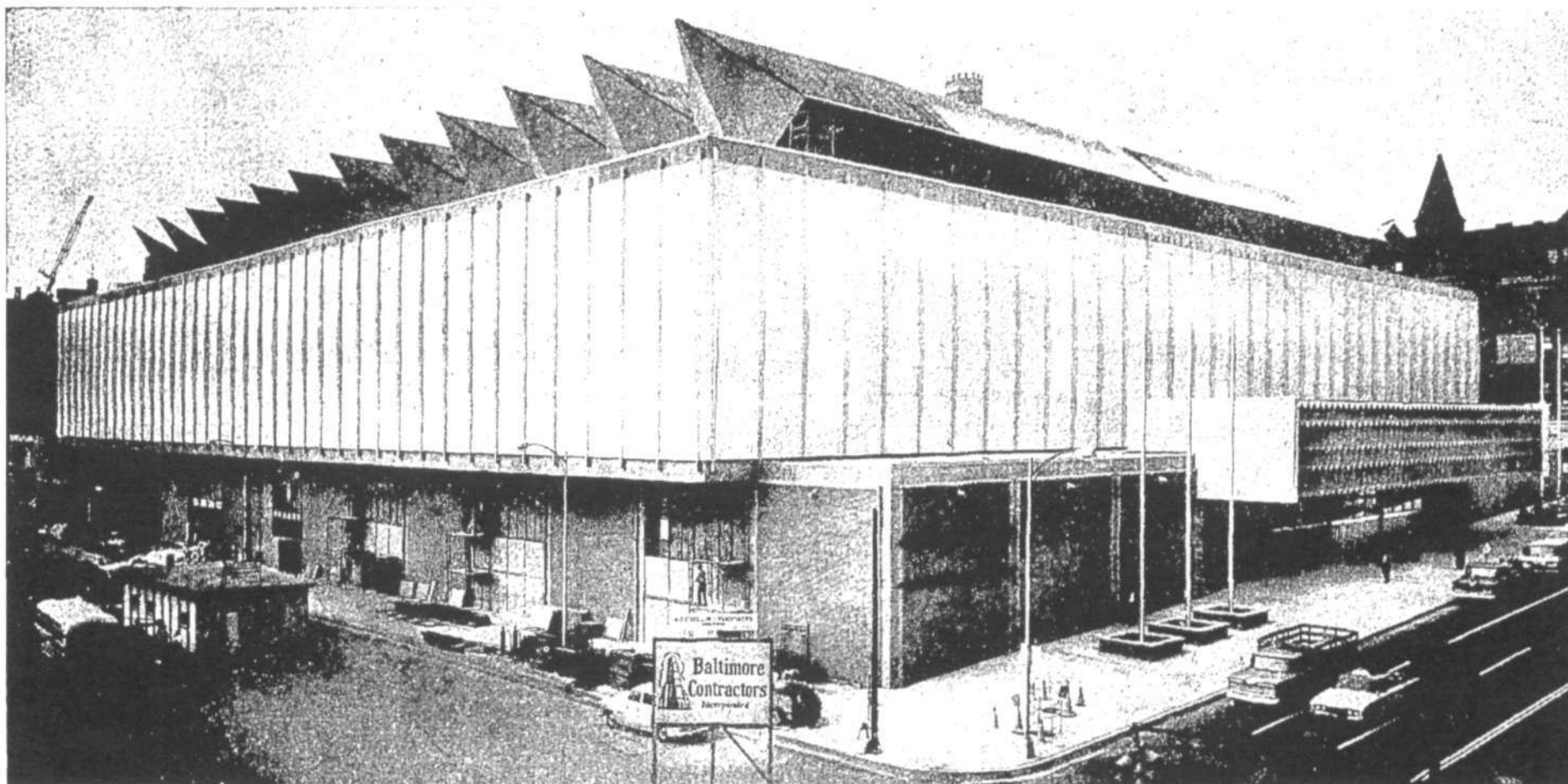
Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena/1st Mariner Arena (B-2365)
201 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland



Ca. 1962 view looking southwest at the façade and east elevation of the nearly complete Baltimore Civic Center (ProQuest: John Schmidt, "After Fifty Years – A Civic Center," The Baltimore Sun, 21 October 1962, p. A1.)

Image

March 2012

Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena/1st Mariner Arena (B-2365)
201 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland

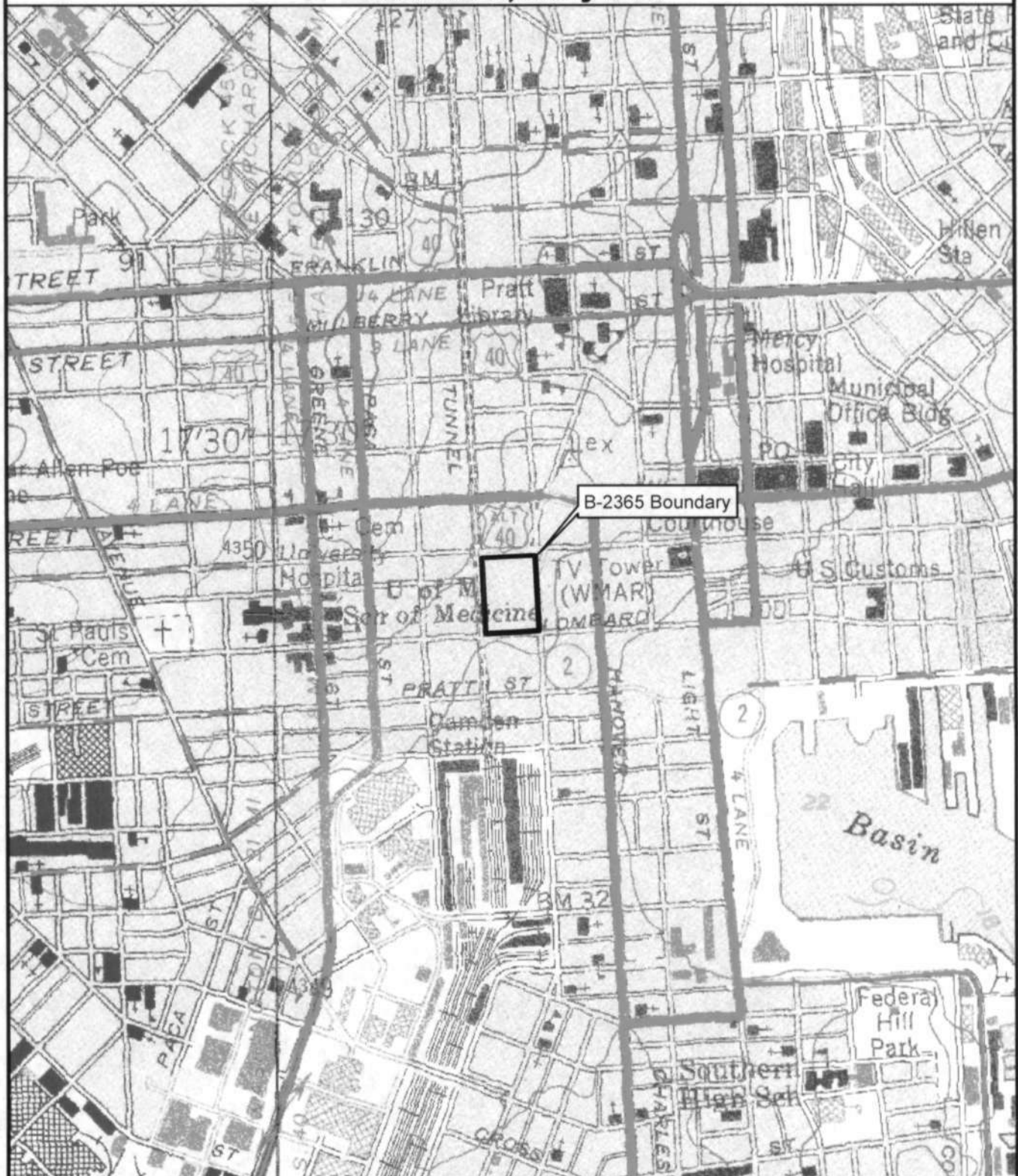


Site Plan

0 100 200 400
Feet

May 2012

Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena/1st Mariner Arena (B-2365)
201 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland



Location Map

0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet

May 2012

Source: Baltimore West and East
USGS 1:50,000

PHOTO LOG

B-2365, Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena, 1st Mariner Arena

B-2365_2012-02-21_01

-North façade, sign detail

B-2365_2012-02-21_02

-North façade, looking southeast

B-2365_2012-02-21_03

-North façade detail, looking southeast

B-2365_2012-02-21_04

-West elevation, northwest corner, looking southeast

B-2365_2012-02-21_05

-West elevation, looking northeast

B-2365_2012-02-21_06; southwest corner at S. Howard Street and W. Lombard Street,

-Looking northeast

B-2365_2012-02-21_07

-Parking Garage along south elevation facing W. Lombard Street, looking northeast

B-2365_2012-02-21_08

-East elevation, looking northwest

B-2365_2012-02-21_09

-East elevation detail, looking west

B-2365_2012-02-21_10

-Northeast corner, sign detail, looking southwest

B-2365_2012-02-21_11

-Steel structure with pedestal along east elevation, looking west

B-2365_2012-02-21_12

-Detail of "1961" date marker on sidewalk in front of north façade entrance

HP 100 Gray Photo ink on HP glossy premium plus photo paper. CD-R Gold.



1st MARINER
Arena

World-Famous chicken.

ROYAL
FARMS

Built In Baltimore.
For Baltimore.

1st MARINER
ARENA

B-2365
Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mt. Vernon Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

Looking south.

North facade, sign detail

1/12

PRINER
rena

World-Famous chicken.

ROYAL FARM
RESTAURANTS

*Always Fresh
and in Season
Nope, Frost!*

**Built In Baltimore.
For Baltimore.**

MARINER BANK

A new health plan just for you.

**Small Business
Big Results**

**Call 800
800-8000**

Chickadee
MAR. 21 - APR. 1



B-2305
Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mariner Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

North Face, Looking Southwest

2/12

new health plan just for you.

Save money.
Get control.
Manage your health.

Cardiac
HealthBlue

www.aetna.com/healthblue



PINGLING
GARD'S
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Charged**

MAR. 21 - APR. 1

SEATTLE
MARINERS

pingling.com



B- 2305

Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mariner Arena

201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

North facade detail, looking Southeast

3/12



Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey
Fully Charged
MAR. 21 - APR. 1
THARMIN
Barnum & Bailey
Barnum & Bailey

B-2365

Baltimore Cir + Center / Baltimore Avenue / 1st McJannet Avenue
201 W, Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

West elevation, Northwest Corner,
looking Southeast

4/12



B-2365
Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena/1st Mariner Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

West elevation, looking northeast

5/12



B-2365
Baltimore Civic Center/Baltimore Arena / 1st Mather Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

S. Roberts

2/21/12

Southwest corner at S. Howard Street and
W. Lombard Street, looking northeast

6/12



B-2365

Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mariner Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

Parking Garage along South elevation
facing W. Lombard Street
looking northeast

7/12



B-2365
Baltimore Civic Center (Baltimore Arena/1st Baltimore Arena)
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

East Elevation, looking northwest

8/12

Did you **SEE** something suspicious while commuting to work or grabbing a bite to eat?

Then **SAV** something to local authorities to make it right.

When you call to report a suspicious activity, you will be asked to provide information about the location, time, and nature of the activity. Your information will be used to help law enforcement agencies investigate and respond to the activity. For more information, visit www.mdt.state.md.us/sav.



B-2365

Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mariner Arena

201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

East Elevation Detail, looking west

9/12



IMAXINER Arena

IMAX
Box of

IMAXINER

CAUTION
NO
PEDESTRIAN
TRAFFIC

NO
Public

B-2365
Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mariner Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

Northeast corner, sign detail, looking southwest

10/12



B-2305
Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Martin Avenue
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

Steel Structure with Pedestal along east elevation
looking west

11/12



B-2365

Baltimore Civic Center / Baltimore Arena / 1st Mariners Arena
201 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore City, MD

B. Roberts

2/21/12

Detail of "1961" date written on sidewalk in
front of North facade entrance

12/12

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-2365 143
644
MAGI#0423655811

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Baltimore Civic Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Entire Block (200 Block W. Baltimore Street)
S. Side

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES, RESTRICTED
☒ YES, UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CITY, TOWN

Room 900

STATE

26 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baltimore Civic Center forms the block bounded by Baltimore, Howard and Pratt Streets, and Hopkins Place. Self-contained and free-standing, the building is defined by a series of triangular crenulated projections extending above the roof.

The base is faced in off-white glazed common bond brick. It projects out from the concrete and metal upper story square on Baltimore Street where the main entrance is located. Below the cantilevered entrance roof, faced in concrete and sculptured metal "Beehive" detailing, are 3 glass divisions. Each of these contains 4 glass double doors mounted by glass transoms and divided by vertical concrete slabs. These slabs mark further divisions around the base of the building.

To the left of the entrance is a marquee. Landscaping occurs beyond the building in the form of off-white brick squares with scrubs and flagpoles within.

The concrete and metal upper story blocks have no windows. They are accented, instead by very stylized, symmetrically placed, metal battlements. The block is cantilevered beyond the brick base on the north and south facades, which have secondary entrances and loading areas. The base also extends out from the outer story block on Lombard Street.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the aesthetic and historic importance of this building is easily debated at this point in time, this building has proven its social importance as a major place of assembly in central Baltimore. It was the first building associated with Charles Center to be completed and in use, and its eccentric roofline continues to serve as an effective foil in the vistas set up by the more recently constructed buildings in and around Charles Center.

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION
2000 Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Planning Assistants

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE

1976

STREET & NUMBER

Room 900

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

26 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

B-2365
The Baltimore Civic Center
201 West Baltimore Street
Block 0644 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





BALTIMORE CIVIL CENTER

B-2365

NEG #2

5/76

P. SUSSMAN

Block
644